

These ships, by reason of their short passage, had store of provisions left, which they put off at easy rates, viz. biscuit at 20s. the hundred; beef at £6 the hogshead, etc.

[Blank.]

Newtown men, being straitened for ground, sent some to Merimack to find a fit place to transplant themselves.

[Blank.]

June 1.] The Thunder, which went to Bermuda the 17th October, now returned, bringing corn and goats from Virginia, (for the weavils had taken the corn at Bermuda before they came there). Ensign Jenyson<sup>1</sup> went in her for pilot, and related, at his return, that there was a very great change in Bermuda since he dwelt there, divers lewd persons || being || become good Christians. They have three ministers, (one a Scotchman,) who ||<sup>2</sup> take || great pains among them, and had lately (by \*134 prayer and fasting) dispossessed one possessed ||<sup>3</sup> with || a devil. They obtained his recovery while the congregation were assembled.<sup>2</sup>

He brought news, also, of a great ship arrived in Patomack

|| having ||

||<sup>3</sup> took ||

||<sup>3</sup> of ||

<sup>1</sup> William Jennison was of Watertown, from which he was a deputy in the second and many subsequent courts, with higher titles than in the text, as lieutenant and captain.

<sup>2</sup> If this be the story of the traveller, not the belief of the author, giving it civilly, without throwing any shadow on it, we should rejoice at the completeness of the narrative, rather than exhibit regret for its credulity. The miracle wrought by the prayer and fasting of three ministers at Bermuda, has never, to my knowledge, been brought up against Protestantism, though it may be rejected with as much contempt as the numerous ones produced, at a later day, by the Jansenists in France. It has been remarked by a disbeliever, that, while the church of Rome asserts, from its foundation to our times, the regular succession of miraculous gifts of all kinds, the reformed are contented with exorcisms. What kind of *possession* this was, thus exorcised at Bermuda, we know not, unless we infer, from the mode of cure, that the operators attempted a recovery of that species (epilepsy) related by Matthew, xvii. 21, and Mark, ix. 29. Better signs, or better proof, are wanted in such cases, if, for our reception, a modern instance of hearing prayer in heaven is offered; though the weak and the cunning, the deluded or the deluders, have, in all ages, abounded in such impositions. The credibility of the evangelists is supported by the very means, which, to a careless observer, might seem to detract from it; and the truth is more resplendent, when the counterfeit is detected.